HF Happenings

No 514

July 2012

The photograph in HF Happenings 512 was taken in Hermanus, and the photograph in HF Happenings 513 was taken at the Digger's Fountain in Kimberley.

Local contesting this weekend

The SARL Winter QRP Contest is a fun activity to promote QRP operation between radio amateurs in Southern Africa. Using homebuilt equipment or operating as a portable / field station and using temporary antennas is encouraged, but is not a requirement.

The Winter QRP Contest will be run from 12:00 to 15:00 UTC on Saturday 21 July with CW and phone activity on 40 metres. The exchange is a RS(T) report and a 6 character grid locator. Each SSB contact counts 1 point and each CW contact counts 2 points. Each prefix worked, counts as a new prefix multiplier.

Logs shall be submitted within 7 days after the contest and can be sent by e-mail to contest@sarl.org.za or by mail to the West Rand Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 5344, Weltevredenpark, 1725.

The Boland ARC 40 Metre Contest is a fun activity to promote contacts on 40 metres between radio amateurs in Southern African countries. It is a phone only contest and will be run from 13:00 to 16:00 UTC on Sunday 22 July 2012. The exchange is your call sign, a RS report and year in which you were licensed

Participation can be as a fixed or mobile station (mobile includes field stations and portable stations). Only three [3] contacts per frequency are allowed before you have to change frequency. You may only return to a previously used frequency after five [5] contacts. Only wire or mobile antennas and a maximum output of 100 watt may be used.

Contacts between Fixed stations count 1 point, contacts between Fixed and Mobile stations count 2 points and contacts between two mobile stations count 3 points.

Only Excel log sheets will be accepted and can sent to zs1bak@bark.org.za or by mail to BARK, PO Box 273, Strand, 7139.

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

Find all the rules on pages 43 and 59 of the 2012 SARL Contest Manual

Take your Fleas to the Market

The Pretoria Amateur Radio Club will be hosting their winter flea market on Saturday 28 July at PMC in Keuning street, Silverton. For more information, or to book a table, phone Almero, ZS6LDP, on 083 938 8955

London Olympic Games Special Prefixes

Subject to prior authorisation, individual amateur radio operators and Club stations in the United Kingdom may use special prefixes from 21 July to 9 September to celebrate the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games.

The second letter in the existing call sign (D, I, J, M, U, W, etc, plus E for Intermediate licences) may be replaced by the letter "O"; where no second letter exists, the letter "O" may be added. For instance, GD0XXX (Isle of Man), GI0XXX (Northern Ireland), GJ0XXX (Jersey), GM0XXX (Scotland), GU0XXX (Guernsey), GW0XXX (Wales) and G0XXX (England) may all be amended to GO0XXX.

Furthermore, calls in the series GB2012 will be available for Special Event Stations relating to the Olympics; licences will also be issued for "flagship" stations using the prefix 2O12 (Two Oscar Twelve) + one letter relating to the location of the station (e.g. 2O12L for London and 2O12W for Wales).

July

1 to 6 – Fauresmith Endurance Race
2 to 8 – Mr Price Pro Ballito, Willard Beach
7 – Vodacom Durban July, Greyville Racecourse
6 to 15 – Pick n Pay Knysna Oyster Festival
13 and 14 East Cape Biltong Festival, Somerset East
14 and 15 – IARU HF Championships
16 – Schools open
21 – SARL Winter QRP Contest
22 – Boland ARC 40 m Contest
25 – SARL 80 m Club Contest, CW
28 – Potjie and Mampoer Fees, Stonehaven, Vanderbijlpark
1 July to 31 August – Christmas in July, Sani Mountain Lodge, Lesotho

August

5 – SARL HF Phone Contest
9 – National Women's Day; SARL YL Sprint
10 – School holiday
18 and 19 – International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend
19 – SARL HF Digital Contest
26 – SARL HF CW Contest

If you are attending any events, take your amateur radio with and spread the word about our hobby!

Milestone reached by ILLW

The Saint Tudwal's Lighthouse in North Wales is the 300th entry in next month's International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. A group from the Strumble Head Contest Group GC0OBS, led by Warwick Hall, G4WMH, will activate the lighthouse on a small archipelago lying south of Abersoch at the western end of Tremadog Bay.

The white light and shorter-range red flash navigation device was built of stone in 1877 after Trinity House, the main lighthouse authority for England, Wales, the Channel Islands and Gibraltar, bought the island group.

Despite the economic and political change occurring around the globe, this fun weekend, now in its 15th year, continues to be on course.

The basic objective is to promote public awareness of lighthouses and lightships, their need for preservation and restoration, and to give amateur radio some publicity.

In the lead on 50 registrations is Australia, followed by the USA (48), Germany (44), and then England (24), Netherlands (19), Scotland and South Africa (12), Argentina (9), Sweden (8), Portugal and Puerto Rico (7), Finland, Poland and Wales (6).

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

The registrations so far come from more than 30 countries made by clubs, groups and individuals. Recent new entries include those from Mexico and Spain, with many more sea-going nations to join in the event on 18 and 19 August.

To enter a lighthouse or lightship for the weekend visit the website illw.net that includes this year's registrations, guidelines, statistics and a lot more.

I see that PEARS will be operating from three lighthouses in the Port Elizabeth area! Well done!

SY Call Signs

Manos, SV1IW, the President of RAAG says, "I would like to remind everyone to inform your members that SY calls that should have start appearing on the bands are not Mt Athos but Greek entry level stations. These are 10 W stations with limited bands and up to 3 dBi gain antennas."

Campbell Island, ZL9 (Update)

Members of the Hellenic Amateur Radio Association of Australia announced that they have received a landing permit from the New Zealand Department of Conservation for the ZL9HR Campbell Island (OC-037) DXpedition in November. The dates are now official and the operation will take place between 28 November and 9 December 2012.

The ZL9 Campbell Island (NZ) is Number 15 on the current DXCC most wanted list. The ZL9HR DXpedition team is Tommy, VK2IR (Team Leader), John, VK3YP (Co-Leader), Les, W2LK, Gene, K5GS, Dave, K3EL, Glenn, KE4KY, Jacques, ZL3CW, Pista, HA5AO, Don, VE7DS, and John, 9M6XRO. The official Web site is at http://www.zl9hr.com

Antarctica Award

The new website for the Antarctica Award, sponsored by the Mediterraneo DX Club, is now up and running at www.mdxc.org/awardantarctica/

Co-ax Construction

Tom, W8JI, recommends a couple of documents about the effect of coax construction, illustrated in this West Penn Wire paper www.westpenn-wpw.com/pdfs/coax_construction.pdf, on mechanical robustness - not something considered by most amateurs.

"Although the test frequency and method is not described, this Commscope paper http://docs.commscope.com/Public/Coax101.pdf shows the difference between quad shield and single foil and braid is 7 dB before 10 000 flexes and 13 dB after 10 000 flexes."

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 16 to 23 July 2012.

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
01:00 - 03:00 UTC 16 July
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Band; All Band
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power
Work stations: Once per band

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 22 July 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/autolog.php

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint

00:30 - 02:30 UTC 19 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1,5 x if bug, 1 x if other

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 22 July 2012

E-mail logs to: naqcc33@windstream.net

Upload log at: http://naqcc.info/sprintlog.html

Mail logs to: John Shannon, K3WWP, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201, USA

Find rules at: http://naqcc.info/sprint201207.html

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data

19:00 – 20:30 UTC 19 July

Mode: RTTY, PSK

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 26 July 2012

Upload log at: http://www.vhfcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/r80mcc.shtml

QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 20 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: Single Op – fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 21 July 2012
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:30 - 02:00 UTC 20 July
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 22 July 2012
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 20 July
Mode: (see rules)
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 22 July 2012
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

Russian Radio Team Championship
07:00 - 14:59 UTC 21 July
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op CW, SSB or mixed - low or high; Multi-Op
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts
Exchange: RRTC: RS(T) and 3-character code; Non-RRTC: RS(T) and ITU Zone no
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same zone or with RRTC stations; 3 points per QSO with different zone on same continent; 5 points per QSO with different zone on different continent
Multipliers: Each ITU zone once per band; Each RRTC 3-character code once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 19:00 UTC 21 July 2012
E-mail logs to: ochr@srr.ru
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://srr.ru/CONTEST/ozchr_12_eng.php

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

DMC RTTY Contest
12:00 UTC 21 July to 12:00 UTC 22 July
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op QRP - low or high; Single Op 12-Hr QRP - low or high; Multi-Single; SWL
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 10 watts
Exchange: RST and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each DXCC country and each JA, W, VE, VK call areas once; Each continent once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x continents x total DXCC/call area mults
Submit logs by: 22 August 2012
E-mail logs to: dmcrtty@digital-modes-club.org
Mail logs to: DMC Contest Committee, PO Box 8, 6000 Stara Zagora, Bulgaria
Find rules at: http://digital-modes-club.org/index.php/en/contests-en

Feld Hell Sprint
16:00 - 18:00 UTC 21 July
Mode: Feld Hell
Bands: 10 m Only
Classes: (none)
Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: (see rules)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (see rules)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 28 July 2012
E-mail logs to: kj8o@wowway.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/oldfiles/contests/sprint-rules

North American RTTY QSO Party
18:00 UTC 21 July to 06:00 UTC 22 July
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op – QRP or low; Multi-Two - low
Max operating hours: Single Op: 10 hours; Multi-Two: 12 hours
Max power: LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: NA: Name, state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 4 August 2012
Upload log at: http://www.ncjweb.com/naqplogsubmit.php
Mail logs to: Mark Aaker, K6UFO, 300 Berry St., Unit 1009, San Francisco, CA 94158-1668, USA
Find rules at: http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

RSGB Low Power Contest
09:00 - 12:00 UTC and 13:00 - 16:00 UTC 22 July
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40 m
Classes: Single Op - fixed or portable - 10 W; Single Op - fixed or portable - 3 W; Multi-Op - fixed or portable - 10 W; Multi-Op - fixed or portable - 3 W
Exchange: RST, Serial no and power
QSO Points: 15 points per QSO with QRP portable/mobile station; 10 points per QSO with QRP fixed station; 5 points per QSO with non-QRP station
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 30 July 2012
Upload log at: http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: RSGB G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7AF, England
Find rules at: http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/rqrp.shtml

Next Week's Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 25 July
SARL 80 m Club Contest, CW, 17:30 – 18:30 UTC 25 July
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 25 July and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 26 July
QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 27 July
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 27 July
RSGB Islands on the Air Contest, 12:00 UTC 28 July to 12:00 UTC 29 July
New Jersey QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 28 July to 20:00 UTC 29 July
ARS Flight of the Bumblebees, 17:00 - 21:00 UTC 29 July

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 16 July 2012.

1872 - Mahlon Loomis receives a patent for wireless ... the radio is born
1880 - First commercial hydroelectric power plant begins operation at Grand Rapids, Mich
1942 - Messerschmitt Me 262 Schwalbe, the first jet fighter, takes its first flight
1955 - First submarine powered by liquid metal cooled reactor launched – USS Seawolf
1969 - Apollo 11 goes into Moon orbit
1983 - Dick Smith, VK2DIK, makes the first solo helicopter flight around the world
1991 - University of Manchester scientist announces finding a planet outside of the solar system

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